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I, JONNE YABSLEY, TEAM LEADER EXAMINATION SUPPORT AND SALES hereby certify that annexed is a true copy of the Provisional specification in connection with Application No. 2002951758 for a patent by VIVANTTI PTY LTD as filed on 26 September 2002.



WITNESS my hand this
Eighth day of October 2003

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PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION

Applicants:

VIVANTTI PTY LTD

Invention Title:

A SYSTEM FOR CONTROLLING ACCESS TO PROFESSIONAL
PROCEDURAL INFORMATION

The invention is described in the following statement:

A SYSTEM FOR CONTROLLING ACCESS TO PROFESSIONAL PROCEDURAL INFORMATION

The present invention relates to risk management, particularly in the medical field. The invention however 5 is also applicable to other service based professions where risk management is important.

In relation to the medical field, medical practitioners such as doctors and surgeons can be sued for a number of reasons including failure to inform a patient 10 of the risks involved with a medical procedure and the failure to perform the medical procedure to an adequate standard. In a worst case scenario where a patient suffers complications associated with a medical procedure, it may be very difficult to prove exactly what the medial 15 practitioner told the patient before the procedure and in addition how well the patient comprehended what they had been told. Furthermore medical practitioners, particularly those that have sold practices, may not have the best administrative skills or procedures implemented 20 to minimise their potential risk.

The present invention is aimed at providing an alternative approach to reducing liability risk for professionals such as medical practitioners. The invention is equally applicable to other professionals 25 such as builders, where there is a risk associated with the service they provide.

According to the present invention there is provided a system for controlling access to procedural information, comprising an internet website having a 30 database containing information on a plurality of procedures and a plurality of questionnaires respectively relating to a different procedure, a data entry means enabling entry of particulars relating to a prospective client accessing the website, an authentication means for 35 generating an ID code for the prospective client, transmitter means for transmitting the code to the prospective client, for transmitting particulars of a

client to an entity associated with performing the procedure and transmitting one or more questionnaires completed by the client to the entity and memory means for recording data relating to ID codes of each client,
5 particulars of a client, information regarding procedures viewed by the client and one or more questionnaires completed by each client and wherein the website is able to perform the following operations when accessed by a prospective client wishing to obtain information relating
10 to one or more medical procedures;

the website operates the data entry means to request particulars from the client including name and address details, the authentication means is arranged to send an ID code to the client, the data base upon receipt
15 of an ID from a client provides information relating to one or more procedures requested by the client including a questionnaire associated with each procedure for completion by the client, the memory means stores information and completed questionnaires for each client
20 and the transmitter means transmits particulars of a client and one or more questionnaires completed by the client to the entity and whereby a record is kept of information provided to each client about the procedure they had performed by the entity.

25 According to another aspect of the present invention there is provided an internet website having a data base containing information on a plurality of procedures and a plurality of questionnaires respectively relating to a different procedure, a data entry means enabling entry of particulars relating to a prospective client accessing the website, an authentication means for generating an ID code for the prospective client, transmitter means for transmitting the ID code to the prospective client, for transmitting particulars of a
30 client to an entity associated with performing the procedure and for transmitting one or more questionnaires completed by the client to the entity and memory means for
35

recording data including particulars of the client, the ID code of the client, information about the or each procedure stored on the data base and viewed by the client and one or more questionnaires completed by the client,

- 5 whereby a record is kept of each client and the information the client accessed at the website including questionnaires completed by the client after the procedure has been performed by the entity.

Preferably the procedure relates to a medical
10 procedure.

The client or prospective client is preferably a patient seeking information about a medical procedure.

Preferably the information stored in the database includes information about procedures associated with any
15 service provided to a client in the field to which the service relates. Thus if the system is used in the building industry the database includes details of building procedures which can be viewed by a client prior to any entity such as a builder building in accordance
20 with the procedure viewed by the client.

Preferably information is stored and retrievable from the database for viewing as information pages.

The system may include a controlling means for prompting a client to complete the or each questionnaire.

25 The system may include a disclaimer means for presenting a disclaimer relating to the procedure information viewed by the client.

The disclaimer may be presented to the client before any information regarding the procedure is
30 presented for viewing.

Preferably the disclaimer includes an acknowledgment which must be authenticated by the client (for example by clicking on an icon) before information relating to a procedure can be presented for viewing by
35 the client.

The internet website may include a home page menu having options including, new client for outlining

operations for a prospective client in order for the client to receive an ID code (password) and an ID entry, for a client to enter their ID code so that they can access procedural information.

5 Preferably the authentication means includes verification means for verifying an ID entered into an ID field in a data entry page of the website.

The data entry means may configured to provide one or more data entry pages on the website.

10 The data entry pages may be produced when a client selects a predetermined option on one page of the website.

15 The data entry pages may include new client pages which are produced when a new client selects the "new client" on one page of website.

It is preferred that the new client pages include fields to be completed by the new client including name and address.

20 When the new client page is completed it is preferred that the controller activates the transmitter to transmit an ID code to the new user.

The transmitter preferably transmits the ID code to an email address of the new client.

25 The data entry pages may include one or more existing client pages which include a field for entering the clients ID.

The authentication means may be adapted to check the ID entered is correct for the client.

Once the authentication means has checked the ID 30 is correct it is preferred that the controller is adapted to produce a main menu page on the website having a list of titles of information stored in the database.

35 Preferably each information topic is viewable at the website as one or more information topic pages, with a questionnaire associated with each information topic.

Each questionnaire is preferably located at the end of the information topic page(s).

A copy of the completed questionnaire may be recorded in the memory means in a client file created for the client.

5 A copy of details or title of an information topic reviewed by the client may be stored in the client file.

Preferably the memory means is adapted to store a file for each client, which file includes details of the client, information pages accessed by the client and 10 questionnaires completed by the client as well as the time of access and length of access to the website by the client.

15 Preferably the questionnaire includes questions relating to information in the information pages viewed by the client.

The questionnaires are preferably multiple choice.

The controller may be adapted to mark the questionnaires and highlight wrong answers.

20 It is preferred that the entity receiving the executed questionnaires is able to view any wrong answers so that the entity can explain the correct answers to the client.

25 It is preferred that the website includes a costing means for providing a cost estimate of one or more procedures.

The controller may be adapted to produce a cost estimate page(s) for a client when a questionnaire has been successfully completed.

30 Preferably the costing means is adapted to calculate a cost for a procedure described in information pages selected by the client.

35 Preferably the cost estimate is based on information received from the client as a result of the client completing an information field in the cost estimate page(s).

The memory preferably records any quote for a

client.

The quote may include a break down of costs associated with the procedure.

According to another aspect of the present
5 invention there is provided a computer program for a website or system according to any one of the previously described embodiments.

Preferably the website includes a list of entities which are able to provide a procedure which is
10 stored on the database.

Preferably the entity is a professional practitioner such as a surgeon or engineer.

The words "comprising, having, including" should be interpreted in an inclusive sense, meaning that
15 additional features may also be added.

A preferred embodiment of the present invention will now be described by way of example only with reference to a flow diagram shown in Figures 1 and 2.

A website for controlling access to medical
20 information relating to medical procedures for prospective patients is represented by ICS.COM in Figure 1 as item 10.

The website acts as an interface between medical practitioners and patients.

In a typical application of the invention a user
25 being a prospective patient, who, for example, wishes to find out about a surgical procedure (such as a heart bypass procedure) accesses the ISC.COM website, in step 11, from their own computer terminal or from one provided for example in a doctor's surgery as referenced by item
30 12.

The website home page 10 prompts the user to enter their name, address and email address, as referenced by item 13, if they are new users.

The website 10 then automatically generates a
35 password and emails this to the user, as referenced by item 14. The user then accesses the website 10 again and enters the password to get beyond the home page 10 after

viewing a disclaimer, as referenced by item 15.

Each time a user accesses the website 10 the website 10 records details of the user and the time of entry and stores this in a user database as referenced by 5 item 16.

The website also has a database containing pages of information about different types of medical procedures.

It is preferred that after the user has entered 10 their password an authentication process either rejects or approves the password and if approved presents a menu of the topics relating to each of the procedures stored in a procedures database of the website. The user, in step 17, then selects the topic of the procedure they are 15 interested in and views this information by clicking on the topic of interest. In step 18 once the user has read the information a questionnaire follows this information and prompts the user to answer the multiple choice questions.

20 The questions in the questionnaire relate to the information on the procedure which has just been viewed by the user. The results of the questionnaire are calculated by software of the website and incorrect answers may be highlighted. The results of the questionnaire are 25 recorded in the user database under the particular users name in step 19.

The completed questionnaire with correct or incorrect answers is also emailed after encryption to a treating surgeon whose name has been selected by the user, 30 either prior to entry to the website or from a database of surgeons provided by the website. This step is represented by item 20 in Figure 1.

It is preferred that the questionnaire appears as 35 an electronic document at the end of the procedural information. This makes it clear that the questionnaire relates to a procedure of a particular topic which has just been viewed and read by the user. However, it is

possible to have separate questionnaires which are provided in hard copy form. These may be faxed, mailed or taken by the user to the surgeon. After the submission of questionnaire answers and recording in the user database,
5 the website presents a financial consent page in step 21. On this page questions are asked regarding the medical procedure of interest to the user as well as other relevant information such as whether an anaesthetist is required as well as insurance, medical products etc. This
10 is shown in step 22. The website includes a cost estimate program for calculating the total cost of the medical procedure including any rebate from Medicare and health funds and calculates any other out of pocket expenses in step 23.

15 In step 24 a record of the quote given is recorded in the user file database and is emailed to the treating surgeon. In step 25 a copy of the cost estimate can be printed so that the user can take this away with them. At the end of this procedure the user is able to exit the financial consent page and return to the main menu in step 25. The whole procedure can then be repeated for a different medical procedure viewed by the user.

20 In Figure 3 step 26 shows an additional feature of the website being a surgeon locator or medical practitioner locator. After a medical procedure has been selected by the user, the database, which may also include a database of medical practitioners, provides a list of surgeons performing the procedure in the area preferred by the user.

25 30 Information relating to a procedure may vary from one medical practitioner to another. Thus one surgeon may have a dedicated database of procedures they perform and from this list of procedures the user picks the appropriate procedure they wish to investigate. That 35 surgeon's information in step 27 is then able to be viewed by the user.

In step 28 on Figure 1 a file of a user which is

stored by the website may then be emailed in its totality to the treating surgeon.

With the system described above a medical practitioner such as a surgeon has the option of using standardised information sheets provided by the website or customised information sheets provided by the surgeon. In addition a combination of both is also possible.

The advantage of the system described above is that it provides quality assurance for the medical practitioner prior to the medical practitioner performing any procedure on a patient. A record is retained of all information accessed by a patient as well as a record of the patient's understanding of the procedure through their answering of their questionnaire. Each user file is stored securely (may include encryption) on the website database and may also be stored on a private database of the medical practitioner.

There are also options to add additional information for recordal such as that provided by a surgeon to a patient following an incorrectly answered questionnaire. A record can be retained of another questionnaire covering more detail about the procedure or an acknowledgment email which is sent from the medical practitioners computer to the website as an acknowledgment that further issues have been discussed and understood by the patient.

According to another embodiment of the invention the website is linked to a medical practitioners website through a hidden link. In this way the website appears as part of the medical practitioners website.

According to another variation of the invention everything viewed by a patient is presented in a hard copy form and questionnaires are completed in hard copy form so that a hard copy file can be kept covering all the information of a patient including that information viewed and completed by the patient. In addition this hard copy information may be scanned and recorded at the medical

practitioners website and then can be emailed for storage at the ISC website.

According to another embodiment of the invention the website may include as a menu option, a medical
5 diagnosis section. When this option is clicked on by a patient or prospective patient one or more pages will appear asking questions about the patient's condition, problem. This information can then be transmitted to a medical practitioner for analysis.

10 It is to be understood that, if any prior art publication is referred to herein, such reference does not constitute an admission that the publication forms a part of the common general knowledge in the art, in Australia or in any other country.

Variations and modifications can be made in respect of the invention described above and defined in the following statement of claim

1. A system for controlling access to procedural information, comprising an internet website having a database containing information on a plurality of procedures and a plurality of questionnaires respectively relating to a different procedure, a data entry means enabling entry of particulars relating to a prospective client accessing the website, an authentication means for generating an ID code for the prospective client, transmitter means for transmitting the code to the prospective client, for transmitting particulars of a client to an entity associated with performing the procedure and transmitting one or more questionnaires completed by the client to the entity and memory means for recording data relating to ID codes of each client, particulars of a client, information regarding procedures viewed by the client and one or more questionnaires completed by each client and wherein the website is able to perform the following operations when accessed by a prospective client wishing to obtain information relating to one or more medical procedures;
- the website operates the data entry means to request particulars from the client including name and address details, the authentication means is arranged to send an ID code to the client, the data base upon receipt of an ID from a client provides information relating to one or more procedures requested by the client including a questionnaire associated with each procedure for completion by the client, the memory means stores information and completed questionnaires for each client and the transmitter means transmits particulars of a client and one or more questionnaires completed by the client to the entity and whereby a record is kept of information provided to each client about the procedure they had performed by the entity.

Figure 1
Informed Surgical Consent (ISC) Flow Chart

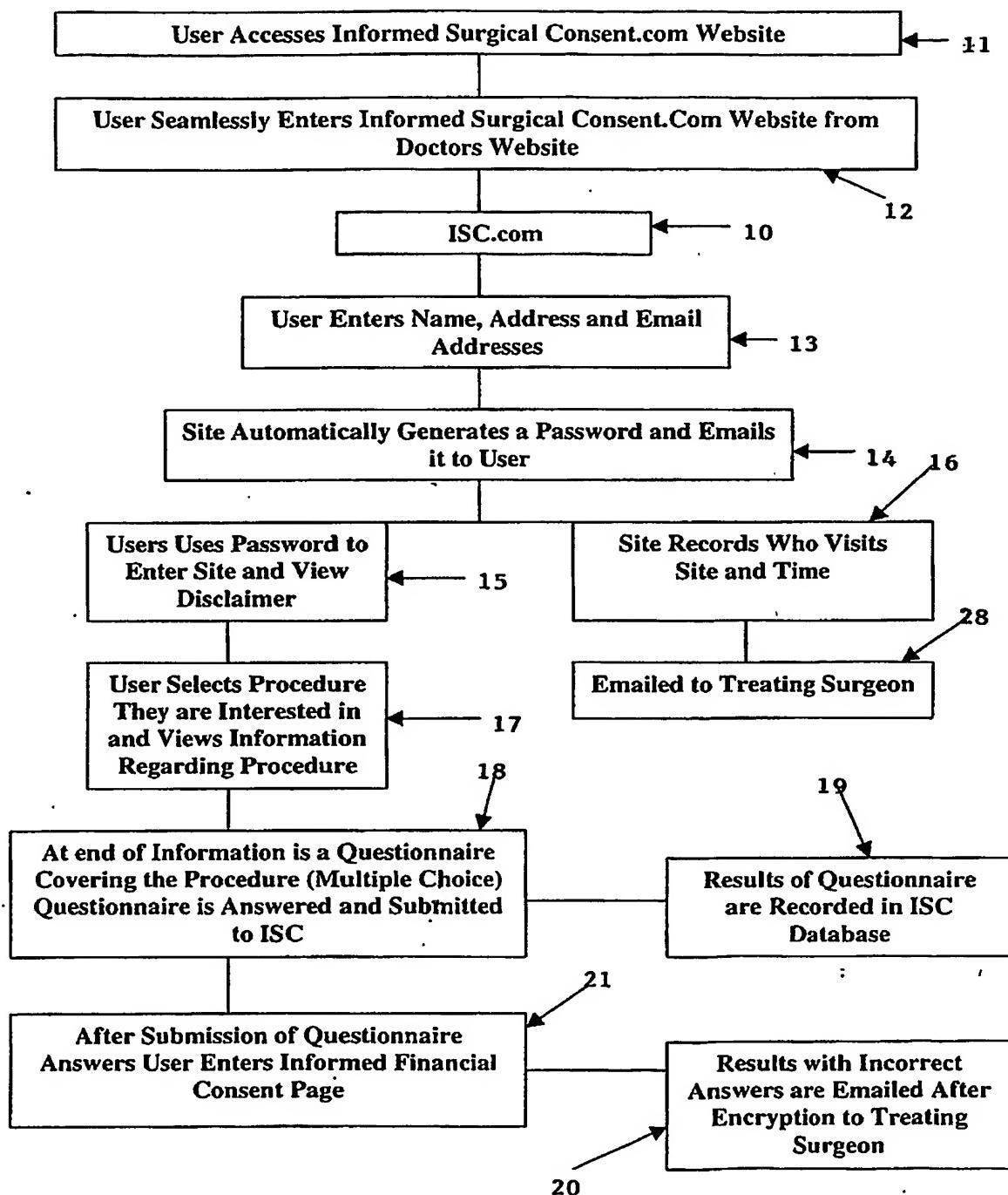


Figure 2

